

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Since oil is the prime income source for Sinclair, their motives for the oil company leaning candidate for the Presidency, Bush/Cheney, is easily traced.

If Sinclair must broadcast such a tainted political advertisement, scheduled directly after the debates tonight, then another political advertisement in favor of Kerry should be run immediately thereafter.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.